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TECHNICAL NOTE

FOREST INSECTS AND DISEASES IN KOUCHIBOUGUAC NATIONAL PARK IN 1986

Personnel of the Forest Insect and Disease Survey regularly survey national parks for forest insect and disease conditions. Some of the conditions encountered in Kouchibouguac National Park in 1986 are discussed below.

SPRUCE BUDWORM has been a major pest in Kouchibouguac National Park, as it has in much of New Brunswick, in recent years. In 1986, defoliation of balsam fir was light to moderate while white spruce was moderately defoliated. Severe defoliation occurred on a few white spruce trees in a small area east of Kouchibouguac Village. Fall surveys indicate that in 1987 defoliation will be generally light in the Park, except for a few areas where moderate defoliation is expected.

BALSAM BARK WEEVIL and WHITESPOTTED SAWYER BEETLE attack weakened balsam fir and white spruce trees. These insects were found in 24% and 16% of the trees in an area of dead and dying white spruce, east of Kouchibouguac Village.

BIRCH CASEBEARER lives in and feeds from a cigar-shaped case it constructs from leaf fragments. It mines the leaves, reaching into the leaf tissue as far as it can without completely leaving the case. Light and moderate defoliation of white birch and to a lesser extent wire birch was present throughout the Park.

BIRCH LEAFMINER, a minute insect which feeds between leaf surfaces, caused light and moderate browning of wire birch foliage at Kelly's Beach and near Kouchibouguac Village. Leaf browning was less intense elsewhere in the Park.

NURSERIES ☐

PLANTATIONS ☐

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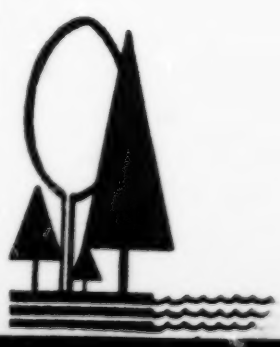
ECONOMICS ☐

TREE IMPROVEMENT ☐

INSECTS AND DISEASES ■



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GYPSY MOTH, is a major defoliator of forest and shade trees in the northeastern United States. In New Brunswick the insect is found in Charlotte County, parts of southwestern York County and at Fredericton. In Kouchibouguac National Park, the adult-moth pheromone trapping program continued in 1986, assisted by the Park staff. One moth was caught in the 25 traps employed. No other life stages of the gypsy moth were found in the Park. Visitors are requested to report any suspect gypsy moth to Park personnel.

WHITEMARKED TUSSOCK MOTH, a colorful hairy caterpillar with a red head and four greyish, brush-like tufts on its back, feeds on both coniferous and deciduous trees. Outbreaks have occurred in the past in Westmorland and Albert counties. In 1986 egg masses were numerous at Pt. Sapin, near the northern boundary of the Park, and one was found at Major Brook. Populations are expected to increase in the area.

SERPENTINE LEAFMINER larvae feed in a wandering, serpentine fashion between the upper and lower leaf surfaces resulting in a silvery appearance of aspen foliage. The insect caused light discoloration throughout the Park.

Trembling aspen was affected by HYPOXYLON CANKER, which was present on 24% of trees near Kouchibouguac River. LEAF AND TWIG BLIGHT, affected 4% of the shoots on 60% of the trees near the Kouchibouguac River. ASPEN LEAF FOLDERS were present but light. ASPEN LEAF ROLLERS affected more than 10% of foliage throughout the Park. WAX FILAMENT SCALE, was present in low numbers on 36% of white birch near the Kouchibouguac River.

Maple trees in the Park are affected by a variety of forest pests. Chronic attack by a combination of these, most likely along with other factors, has resulted in twig and branch mortality of red and to some extent of sugar maple trees throughout the Park. Organisms observed in 1986 were: MAPLE LEAFROLLER rolled up to a third of the leaves; SPINDLEGALL MITE and MAPLE BLADDERGALL MITE were present on 30 to 50% of foliage; LEAF BLISTER was present on a few trees at LaSource; MAPLE LEAF SPOTS affected 20% of the foliage on all red maples at LaSource.

OTHER ORGANISMS OF INTEREST - WHITE PINE WEEVIL, feeding on the inner bark of leaders of open-growing pines and spruces, continued to attack and kill leaders. About 20% of white pine in the Park is affected. LARCH CASEBEARER was present in low numbers on up to 20% of tamarack trees. FROST damaged 32% of shoots on all open-grown white spruce trees near Kouchibouguac River. PORCUPINES damaged scattered white pine trees east of Kouchibouguac Village. PINE BARK ADELGID was present on more than half of white pine trees near the Kouchibouguac River. JACK PINE BUDWORM caused up to 10% defoliation of 40% of jack pine near Kouchibouguac Village. SPRUCE BUD MOTHS caused moderate defoliaiton of many, open-growing white spruce trees near Kouchibouguac Village.

-Charles M. B. Dobson
Forest Insect and Disease Survey

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